

REMARKS

The outstanding Office Action includes a restriction requirement and an election of species requirement for claims 1-26. It is pointed out that claims 1-26 were canceled as a result of the Preliminary Amendment accompanying the filing of the above-identified patent application on November 18, 2003. Claims 1-26 were canceled and new claims 27-46 were introduced by the Preliminary Amendment. Enclosed for the Examiner's convenience is a copy of the Preliminary Amendment that was mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 18, 2003. Additionally enclosed is a copy of the date-stamped postcard demonstrating that the Preliminary Amendment was mailed on November 18, 2003.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1-26, it is understood that the outstanding Office Action has been issued in error. Furthermore, it is pointed out that the only claims pending are composition claims. Because there are no method claims pending, there is no reason to restrict between composition claims and method claims. Furthermore, in the event the Examiner requires an election of species for purposes of initiating the search, the block copolymer species is hereby elected. It is understood that once the composition is determined to be patentable for the block copolymer species, the search will be extended for the remaining species.

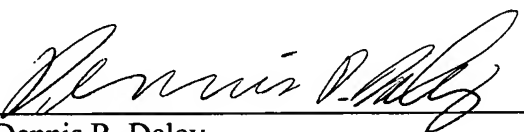
It is believed that this application is in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 9, 2004




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Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

M&G 163.1320USD1 ^{cl} Applicant: Lentsch et al.

"Express Mail" #: EV 321730198 US

Date of Deposit: November 18, 2003

- ☒ a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b)
- ☒ The application is as follows: 22 pages of specification, 26 claims, 1 page of abstract, 0 sheets of drawings, and 4 pages of oath or declaration.
- ☒ Attached is a check in the amount of 770.00
- ☒ A preliminary amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.)

Patent Application

CAJ/tt

031088 U.S. PTO
10/716806



111803



NEW FILING

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lentsch et al. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Serial No.: NEW FILING Group Art Unit:
Filed: HEREWITH Docket No.: 163.1320USC1
Title: RINSE AGENT COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR RINSING A
SUBSTRATE SURFACE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 321730198 US
Date of Deposit: November 18, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313.

By: Teresa Anderson
Name: Teresa Anderson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Patent Applications
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph after the title and before the section entitled "Field of the Invention":

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/606,290, filed June 29, 2000. The entire disclosure of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/606,290 is incorporated herein by reference.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice and add claims 27-46. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

New Set of Claims

1-26 (CANCELLED)

27. (NEW) A rinse agent composition comprising:

- (a) sheeting agent comprising surfactant in an amount for promoting draining of sheets of water from a surface; and
- (b) humectant comprising at least one of propylene glycol, glycerine, sorbitol, alkyl polyglycosides, polybetaine polysiloxanes, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the sheeting agent and the humectant are different and the weight ratio of the total amount of humectant in the rinse agent composition to the total amount of sheeting agent in the rinse agent composition is greater than 1:3, and wherein the rinse agent composition, when provided as an aqueous rinse containing an active materials concentration of 10 parts per million to 500 parts per million, reduces water solids filming in the presence of rinse water containing in excess of 200 parts per million total dissolved solids compared to an aqueous rinse not containing the humectant.

28. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, further comprising an acidic pH adjusting agent.

29. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 28, wherein the acidic pH adjusting agent comprises citric acid.

30. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one of a nonionic block copolymer, alcohol alkoxyates, alkyl polyglycosides, zwitterionics, and anionics.

31. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the surfactant comprises nonionic block copolymer.

32. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the surfactant comprises alcohol alkoxylate.

33. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the humectant comprises propylene glycol.

34. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the humectant comprises glycerine.

35. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 31, wherein the nonionic block copolymer comprises ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units.

36. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 32, wherein the alcohol alkoxylate has a formula:



wherein R comprises an alkyl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms, AO comprises at least one alkylene oxide group containing at least 2 carbon atoms, x is at least 1, and X is hydrogen or an alkyl group containing 1-12 carbon atoms.

37. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 36, wherein AO further comprises at least one of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide, and mixtures thereof.

38. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 37, wherein the AO further comprises a decylene oxide as a cap.

39. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 27, wherein the weight ratio of the total amount of humectant in the rinse agent composition to the total amount of sheeting agent in the rinse agent composition is greater than 1:2.

40. (NEW) A rinse agent composition comprising:

- (a) sheeting agent comprising nonionic block copolymer surfactant in an amount for promoting draining of sheets of water from a surface; and
- (b) humectant comprising propylene glycol;

wherein the sheeting agent and the humectant are different and the weight ratio of the total amount of humectant in the rinse agent composition to the total amount of sheeting agent in the rinse agent composition is greater than 1:2, and wherein the rinse agent composition, when provided as an aqueous rinse containing an active materials concentration of 10 parts per million to 500 parts per million, reduces water solids filming in the presence of rinse water containing in excess of 200 parts per million total dissolved solids compared to an aqueous rinse not containing the humectant.

41. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 40, further comprising a pH adjusting agent including citric acid.

42. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 40, wherein the nonionic block copolymer comprises ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units.

43. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 42, wherein the nonionic block copolymer further comprises a number average molecular weight of between about 1,500 and about 100,000.

44. (NEW) A rinse agent composition comprising:

- (a) sheeting agent comprising alcohol alkoxylate surfactant in an amount for promoting draining of sheets of water from a surface; and
- (b) humectant comprising propylene glycol;

wherein the sheeting agent and the humectant are different and the weight ratio of the total amount of humectant in the rinse agent composition to the total amount of sheeting agent in the rinse agent composition is greater than 1:2, and wherein the rinse agent composition, when provided as an aqueous rinse containing an active materials concentration of 10 parts per million

to 500 parts per million, reduces water solids filming in the presence of rinse water containing in excess of 200 parts per million total dissolved solids compared to an aqueous rinse not containing the humectant.

45. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 44, wherein the alcohol alkoxylate has a formula:



wherein R comprises an alkyl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms, AO comprises at least one alkylene oxide group containing at least 2 carbon atoms, x is at least 1, and X is hydrogen or an alkyl group containing 1-12 carbon atoms.

46. (NEW) A rinse agent composition according to claim 44, further comprising a pH adjusting agent including citric acid.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the examiner to enter the above amendment. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 27-46 have been added and are supported, for example, as indicated below. No new matter is introduced in the amendment.

Claim 27 is supported, for example, at page 3, lines 2-4; page 4, lines 14-17; page 4, lines 28-30; and page 12, lines 15-17 of the specification.

Claim 28 is supported, for example, at page 4, lines 20-23; page 11, lines 2-5; and page 14, table 3 of the specification.

Claim 29 is supported, for example, at page 14, table 3 of the specification.

Claim 30 is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9 of the specification.

Claim 31 is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9 of the specification.

Claim 32 is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9 of the specification.

Claim 33, is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9 of the specification.

Claim 34, is supported, for example, at page 9, lines 12-14 of the specification.

Claim 35 is supported, for example, at page 3, line 13 and page 6, line 16 of the specification.

Claim 36 is supported, for example, at page 7, lines 21-28 of the specification.

Claim 37 is supported, for example, at page 7, lines 26-27 of the specification.

Claim 38 is supported, for example, at page 7, lines 27-28 of the specification.

Claim 39 is supported, for example, at page 9, lines 23-24 of the specification.

Claim 40 is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9; page 9, lines 12-14; and page 9, lines 23-24 of the specification.

Claim 41 is supported, for example, at page 11, lines 1-5 and page 14, table 3 of the specification.

Claim 42 is supported, for example, at page 3, line 13 and page 6, line 16 of the specification.

Claim 43 is supported, for example, at original claim 3 of the specification.

Claim 44 is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 7-9; page 9, lines 12-14; and page 9, lines 23-24 of the specification.

Claim 45 is supported, for example at page 7, lines 21-28 of the specification.

Claim 46 is supported, for example, at page 11, lines 1-5 and page 14, table 3 of the specification.


Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Date: NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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